

Message Text

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22

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IGA-02 L-03 H-02 SP-02 AID-05 EB-07

NSC-05 CIEP-01 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01

CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 XMB-02

OPIC-03 LAB-04 SIL-01 IO-11 PA-01 PRS-01 /094 W

----- 113798

R 221640Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY COTONOU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8050

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

C O N F I D E N T I A L COTONOU 0106

ABIDJAN FOR REDSO; NIAMEY FOR RDO

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, EINV, PROR, DM, US

SUBJ: INDEMNIFICATION OF TEXACO AND MOBIL: COTONOU BRIDGE/DAM

REF A - COTONOU81, B - STATE 11694, C - COTONOU 71, D - STATE 10221,

1. AS A FOLLOW-UP TO THE AMB'S JAN 16 MEETING WITH FORNMIN ALLADAYE (REF A), DCM TODAY WENT TO SEE FORMIN DIR FOR WESTERN EUROPE/NORTH AMERICA, EDMOND CAKPO, TO REVIEW GSP, HICKEN-LOOPER AMENDMENT AND COTONOU BRIDGE/DAM QUESTIONS. PURPOSE WAS TO ENSURE THAT FORNMINISTRY UNDERSTANDS THEM AND IS CAPABLE OF EXPLAINING THEM ACCURATELY TO PRESIDENT AND MINISTERS. ON RECENT DEVELOPMENTS, DCM FOLLOWED LINE TAKEN BY DEPTOFF IN CONVERSATION WITH BENIN CHARGE ON JAN 14 (REF D).

2. CAKPO REPORTED THAT INDEMNIFICATION COMMISSION FOR PETROLEUM COMPANIES HAS BEEN REACTIVATED. HE SAID IT MET ONCE LAST WEEK AND AGAIN ON JAN 20. SONOCOP, THE STATE-RUN PETROLEUM DISTRIBUTION COMPANY, HAS BEEN DESIGNATED TO HANDLE NEGOTIA-
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TIONS WITH TEXACO AND MOBIL. CAKPO COULD NOT PROVIDE

DETAILS BECAUSE FORNMIN WAS NOT REPRESENTED AT COMMISSION MEETINGS. HE CONFIRMED THAT THE EMBASSY WOULD BE INFORMED OF INDEMNIFICATION DEVELOPMENTS IN DUE COURSE BY DIP NOTE.

3. DURING LONG BACKGROUND CONVERSATION, CAKPO SAID HIS GOVT HAD BEEN CONVINCED THAT USG HAD BEEN INTENTIONALLY SABOTAGING THE BRIDGE/DAM PROJECT EVER SINCE BENIN ADOPTED MARXIST-LENINISM MORE THAN A YEAR AGO. CHALLENGING THIS VIEW, DCM CITED STRENUOUS EFFORTS OF AID, REDSO AND EMBASSY DURING PAST YEAR TO KEEP THE PROJECT AFLOAT IN FACE OF CONDITIONS THAT CHTENTIAL US BIDDERS DID NOT FIND PARTICULARLY ATTRACTIVE. ALSO MADE POINT THAT IF BENIN GOVT HAD TAKEN SERIOUS STEPS TOWARD INDEMNIFICATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH OUR SUGGESTIONS ALL ALONG, IT COULD HAVE AVOIDED MUCH GRIEF.
ENGLE

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Message Attributes

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